

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2005-217-WS - ORDER NO. 2006-603  
OCTOBER 13, 2006

IN RE:	Application of Utilities Services of South	)	ORDER GRANTING
	Carolina, Inc. for Adjustments of Rates and	)	REQUEST FOR PASS-
	Charges and Modifications to Certain Terms	)	THROUGH OF
	and Conditions for the Provision of Water and	)	INCREASED BULK
	Sewer Services.	)	WATER CHARGES

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) on Utilities Services of South Carolina, Inc.’s (“USSC” or the “Company”) request to pass increased water charges to its customers in the Varnarsdale and Parkwood Subdivisions that result from higher prices in the bulk water it purchases from the City of West Columbia, South Carolina.

In a letter dated September 6, 2006, the City of West Columbia informed USSC that its bulk water rates would increase from \$2.40 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.00 per 1,000 gallons in the next billing cycle. USSC seeks approval from the Commission to pass this increased charge to their customers affected by the increase as allowed by Order No. 2002-285 (dated April 18, 2005). It also requests that the Commission waive the sixty (60) day advance notice requirement described in Order No. 2002-285, as further delineated specifically to USSC in Order No. 2006-22 (dated January 19, 2006), since the Company received such short notice itself.

If the sixty (60) day notice requirement is enforced, USSC's customers will be billed the pass-through charges for the months of October and November concurrently on their November billing statement. This concurrent billing will cause these customers to pay one large bill rather than spreading the charges over a longer time. Since paying one large bill might cause a burden to some of USSC's customers, the Commission finds the public interest of providing a more lengthy notice to customers through the sixty (60) day notice requirement is overcome by the possibility that some customers will be unable to pay two added months of increased water charges.

Therefore, the Commission waives the sixty (60) day notice requirement and approves the request of USSC to pass through the increased bulk water rate in its next billing with a bill insert explaining the increase. Waiver of the notice requirement is in the public interest because it will prevent USSC from billing multiple months of price increases in a single bill. Additionally, the Commission requests the Office of Regulatory Staff to discuss with bulk water suppliers, who supply water to utilities regulated by this Commission, the feasibility of providing more notice to bulk customers prior to increasing bulk water rates.

OCTOBER 13, 2006

PAGE 3

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This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.


BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



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C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)